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**Bovine**

(*Bang's Disease*)

# BRUCELLOSIS

## PLAN A CONTROL PROGRAM TO FIT YOUR HERD

EACH HERD is a separate problem. Talk with a competent veterinarian about your herd. After he has answered your questions, select one of the three federal-state plans that will fit your needs. For information about these plans write DIVISION OF LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, Springfield, Illinois.

Begin by testing all animals. Follow up with good management—there are no cure-all remedies.

The ultimate aim is to build up and maintain a clean herd. Once the right program has been selected, its success will depend upon the care with which it is put into operation.

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# Don't let brucellosis get a foothold in a clean herd . . .

If your herd has never been infected with brucellosis or if the disease has been cleaned out—don't take chances on introducing it by making careless additions to the herd . . .

**Don't** add untested animals to the herd under any circumstances.

**Don't** put open negative animals from negative herds in a clean herd except after a 60-day quarantine and another negative test.

**Don't** add negative pregnant heifers or cows from clean herds until they show another negative test 30 days after calving.

**Don't** add your own or any other exhibition animals to the herd until they have been held in quarantine for 60 days and have then shown a negative test.

**Don't** bring negative cows from infected herds into a clean herd.

**Don't** let infected breeding swine, horses with fistula of the withers or poll evil, or aborting sheep come into contact with cattle.

# Don't fail to use the agglutination test for diagnosis in your herd . . .

Brucellosis may be present in your herd even tho none of the cows abort. The agglutination test will enable you to find out which animals have the disease and to plan your control program accordingly. Testing and sanitary management have cleaned up thousands of herds and kept them clean . . .

**Don't** depend on one test—repeated tests are necessary. In infected herds, cattle that give a negative reaction on one test may be in the early stages of infection and give a positive reaction on later tests.

**Don't** blame the agglutination test for the spread of the disease. It cannot spread it; it can only detect it.

**Don't** stake all on testing—good management must go along with it. Clean herds, and even accredited herds, may become badly infected if improperly managed.

**Don't** get the idea that a negative reaction to the agglutination test insures that a cow will *never* abort nor that a positive reaction means that a cow will *always* abort. Many infected cows breed normally and cows not infected may abort from other causes.

## Don't substitute calfhood vaccination for good management

Calfhood vaccination supplements but does not replace a regular program of testing and sanitation for infected herds. Properly applied to calves 4 to 8 months old, it is regarded as an aid in rebuilding infected herds. A living germ of low virulence (Strain 19) is employed.

**Don't** fail to test the herd before vaccinating the calves. Calves in clean herds should be vaccinated only in unusual situations.

**Don't** think that because a calf has been vaccinated and the reaction has disappeared, the animal may never show another reaction.

**Don't** get the idea that every vaccinated calf is absolutely protected against abortions later on. A small percent of vaccinated calves may fail to be protected against brucellosis. Other vaccinated calves may later abort from other infectious agents or from injury or rough handling.

**Don't** forget that a small percent of the vaccinated calves may remain positive to the agglutination test.

**Don't** be careless in using vaccine. Misused it may do more harm than good. The value of vaccinating mature animals has not been conclusively proved and there may be danger from the practice, especially if the animals are pregnant or if raw milk is being sold. The reaction induced by vaccinating mature animals may remain indefinitely.

## Don't overlook the effect of brucellosis on human health . . .

Man is susceptible to the cattle, swine, and goat types of brucellosis. They produce a disease known as undulant fever. To help guard public health against this disease, test all animals and take out of the herd those that are infected or pasteurize all milk.